

Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2016



A Note from your New Alumni Coordinator, Eleanore Boyse

The summer brought changes to Embassy Ottawa with the departure of Alumni Coordinator Ariane Guy and my arrival as her replacement.

It is with great enthusiasm that I join the team at the American Embassy and look forward to meeting and working with many of you.

I have long been affiliated with the Department of State, having worked as an Economic Officer for several years before resigning to keep my family together with my husband, Matt Boyse, Minister Counselor for Political Affairs here at the Embassy.

We have served around the world and raised three children. I am a graduate of SAIS Johns Hopkins, have worked in Alumni Affairs for many years, and most recently represented the Hans Hofmann Trust, JP Morgan, in Germany.

Eleanore Boyse

Alumni

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Goodbye, Canada! Hello, Haiti!



Erick & Ariane

We were sorry to see Ariane go but very pleased to hear of her engagement to Erick. Below is a note from Ariane from her new home in Haiti

Time just flew by since my departure from Embassy Ottawa at the end of May. I spent most of June with my family in Quebec City, taking advantage of the time I had to visit with my nephews and friends. At the end of June, my partner and I had the pleasure of vacationing in beautiful British Columbia, spending time in Vancouver, Whistler and Victoria. Upon our return out East, we finalized the details of our move and Erick popped the question at last :)! We couldn't be happier!

It's been two months since we arrived in Haiti and we're settled in great. Erick is back at work and I got a contract as Civil Affairs Officer with the MINUSTAH, through the United Nations Volunteer Program. I will be

starting this new challenge shortly and am beyond excited!

As for the Caribbean life, I've been enjoying the never-ending supply of fresh avocados that grow on our property, along with guavas, papayas, plantains, and passion fruit juice. I am still working on getting used to 40+ degrees and lots of traffic. I do reminisce about my time at the Embassy more often than one might think :) I had a wonderful experience. Colleagues, alumni, contacts, and friends, it was a pleasure working with all of you. Thank you for this opportunity to share updates from my new adventure!

Ariane

2016 Fulbright Recipients

A hearty Welcome to the American Fulbright recipients who recently arrived in Canada and best of luck to the Canadian recipients who have departed for south of the border. You can find out more about Fulbright on their new and improved website: <http://www.fulbright.ca/>

2016 Parliamentary Interns

August also brought a new class for the Parliamentary Internship Programme.

For bios and details go to <https://pip-psp.org/home>.

2016 Youth Ambassadors

The Youth Ambassadors program in Canada is a three-week exchange for Canadians to visit the United States. The program brings together students, ages 15 to 18, and adult mentors from across Canada to promote mutual understanding, increase leadership skills, and position youth to make a difference in their communities. Program themes include civic education, community service, youth leadership, and social inclusion. The Center for the Study of Canada at SUNY Plattsburgh implements the program on behalf of the U.S. Department of State.



Michael Bal

Youth Ambassador Leader

School Liaison Officer

Vancouver Police Department

As a Vancouver police officer, I take tremendous pride in working with youth in my city. Since joining the VPD Youth Services Section, I have developed a passion for working with youth and helping them grow into positive young adults. When the chance to work with youth from across Canada arose (as a Youth Ambassador leader), I was very excited to be part of a program designed to help develop some of Canada's brightest youth.

As an adult mentor for 16 youths in the program, I had the opportunity to meet young people from all over Canada. As a police officer in this current law enforcement climate, it took some time to break through and create meaningful relationships with the young participants. However, by the end of the program I had made positive connections with each student and put a face to the police.

The trip offered also provided me with the opportunity to visit a small American city. While staying in Plattsburgh, New York, I met many local residents and spoke candidly with them about political and

Gil Angela Dela Cruz

Youth Ambassador

12th grade, Vaughan, Ontario.

Coming back from the Youth Ambassador Program, I returned with new memories and new friends, along with so many new skills and lessons that I learned through our wonderful speakers and the many people we met in Plattsburgh and Washington.

Seeing that the United States was interested in bettering their relationship with Canada and strengthening our ties was really interesting. I liked seeing that we were neighbors and partners and that both of our countries were willing to grow in our relation-

Spotlight on Alumni

social issues they face. Being able to meet with these community members provided a level of insight into American culture that one simply could not get through American television or websites.

Looking forward, I am keen to continue my work with the students I met on the trip and watch as they grow into positive members of their communities. Through the Program, I have undoubtedly made lifelong connections and new friends in Plattsburgh and with 16 young Canadian leaders.



Michael Bal and Fellow Youth Ambassador Jessie Ou

ship through youth.

My project is called Youth Impact Network, or YIN, and its goal is to connect students in my school with local community service initiatives to encourage volunteering. Volunteer opportunities will be posted on a website to make them more accessible. This project will also work to promote volunteering within my school through events so that students can find a passion in giving time to others. This is a way for students to grow, reach out to others, get to know interesting people, and learn new skills.



This Year's **Youth Ambassadors** see America
(all photos courtesy of Michael Ball)

International Visitors Leadership Program:

“Anti-Radicalization and Combating Violent Extremism among Youth for Community Organizations (Canada),”



Photos courtesy of Mohamad Hassan (pictured above right).

Alumni News From Around Canada

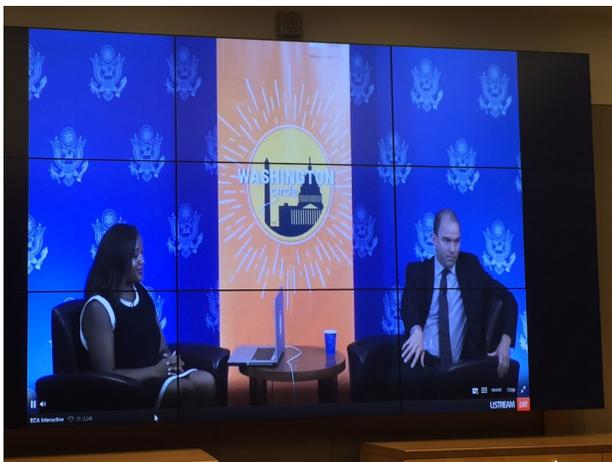
Montreal

On August 16, the Consulate General in Montreal invited the two Quebec alumni from the *Anti-Radicalization and CVE Among Youth* program to meet two other leaders researching radicalization. **Lamine Foura**, a well-known leader and radio host in Montreal, and **Luqman Ahmed**, an Imam at a Montreal mosque, joined **Benjamin Ducol**, Research Director for the Montreal based Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence. Mr. Ducol announced that his research paper on homegrown radicalization at Montreal's Collège de Maisonneuve was about to be published. **Kyle Mathews**, Executive Director for the Montreal Institute of Genocide Studies (MIGS), also discussed some of the CVE research MIGS will be supporting.



Lamine and Luqman described how their recent all-Canadian IVLP delegation examined CVE programs in schools, local governments, mosques and neighborhoods. After visiting Washington, DC, they went to San Bernadino, Chicago, and Atlanta. The community organizations they visited emphasized that including families is key to preventing radicalization. Lamine and Luqman said it would serve Quebec communities well to create partnerships with credible voices, people who have studied Islam and want to protect the local community. The group agreed on the importance of a local approach to CVE with a focus on understanding and empowering youth.

Ottawa



Ben Rhodes: A View From the White House

Alumni and other Embassy contacts watched a webchat with Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor, who spoke about his experience in the White House, the workings of the White House, and his relationship with President Obama.

Winnipeg



In 2014, IVLP alumnus (2012) **Cameron Derksen** was selected as a Junior Professional Officer with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Rwanda, facilitated by the United Nations Association of Canada's (UNAC) Professional Placement Programme (now called IDDIP). Working in the Strategy & Policy Unit of the UNDP Country Office in Kigali allowed Cameron to apply his background in international development and international relations in a new context. Cameron worked on a variety of projects, including preparing Rwanda's Human Development Report (2014) and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report (2013).

Rwanda is a very small country that is probably best known for the genocide against the Tutsi people in 1994. Although this was a unquestionably a defining moment for Rwanda, Cameron was amazed by the country's achievements in the past 22 years. Rwanda's economy is one of the fastest growing on the continent, despite being land-locked and having the highest population density in Africa. Ethnic tensions, ethnic designations have effectively been banned, and "everyone is a Rwandan now," according to a popular mantra. Rwanda's ambitious development agenda, led by the former resistance fighter and current President Paul Kagame, has implemented health insurance schemes, almost 100% primary education enrollment, establishment of vocational and post-secondary training institutions, and many other advancements. Kigali is also famous for being the cleanest city in Africa, due in part to the banning of plastic bags and rigorous maintenance of public spaces. While the country still faces many hurdles, the government has set an ambitious goal of being a middle income country by 2020.

Cameron found Rwanda a great place to live and work in part due to the moderate climate, the fast-growing capital city, and the inspiring citizens who have made incredible strides toward building a new country from a devastating starting point within one generation. Working with the UNDP was also an eye-opening experience. Cameron was inspired by the many talented and dedicated people who work tirelessly in challenging situations to advance the goals of the international community and local governments. The UNDP team modeled successful partnership with the national government, earning praise from the UN Secretariat.

Following his time in Kigali, Cameron returned to Canada to a position in intergovernmental relations with the Government of British Columbia. He hopes to return to Rwanda in the future, and to work overseas within the UN again someday.

Vancouver

On July 7, the Consulate General hosted three of the four Vancouver-based 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit alumni for a luncheon discussion at the Consul General's residence. They were **Alex Gillis** (of Getbitness.io), **Michael Vogel** (of Netcoins), and **Sarah Goodman** (from iHeart). This talented group shared details about their experience during this year's summit at Stanford University as well as information about their products and ventures. All three participants enjoyed their experience at the summit, and are planning to apply for GES2017. The summit was a whirlwind of events and kept all participants meaningfully engaged. Michael said he could not find words to express how much he got out of the summit and said it highlighted the spaces of opportunity for global expansion of his business. Sarah connected with the inventor of a product similar to hers and, in doing so, gained an invaluable new mentor. Alex said the experience enabled him to network with prospective partners from around the world and he gathered feedback about his product from other participants that will inform future development. That the summit took place in the hub of Silicon Valley was inspirational for all of our attendees. The congregation of the tech sector's highest-profile leaders provided all of them with unparalleled networking opportunities; one even enjoyed a chance encounter with Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. The participants commented on the highlight of hearing President Obama deliver remarks at the summit.

Left to right.:

Michael Vogel (GES participant), Michelle Lee (Public Affairs Officer Vancouver), Sarah Goodman (GES participant), Lynne Platt (Consul General Vancouver), Alex Gillis (GES participant)



Toronto

Infrastructure is a hot topic in Canada and the United States. **David Morley**, IVLP 2006, has been showcasing Ontario's infrastructure successes in the United States with speaking opportunities at the National Governors' Association, the Congressional Subcommittee and the National Conference of State Legislators. He has built partnerships and shared knowledge about new ways of modernizing infrastructure. In less than two years, David did outreach with Illinois; Washington, DC; Oregon; Texas; North Carolina; Arkansas; Colorado; and Maryland.

David has been talking about why Ontario developed a modern approach to infrastructure called Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP). Many states are looking at how to adopt this style for their biggest and toughest infrastructure projects. More importantly state legislators and business leaders see the potential for a more entrepreneurial way to build infrastructure so that projects come in on budget. David has highlighted how Infrastructure Ontario delivered 98 percent of its projects on budget using the AFP model. There are new hospitals, highways, courthouses, children's treatment centers and even PanAm sports facilities for public use.

In Canada, the federal government committed \$120 billion over the next 10 years. Ontario is investing \$160 billion over 12 years in public infrastructure, \$30 billion of which will bring transit and transportation projects to life. Those levels of investment will require cooperation among governments and businesses, labor, and community groups. Projects can create benefits at the local level; they can also strengthen regional and national economies. David believes companies on both sides of the border could compete to win work, and should pursue opportunities to work together. Already the largest banks, law firms, construction companies, and other players in Ontario's infrastructure ecosystem are well-positioned to export their expertise.

Looking ahead to this fall, David will be with the Ontario General Contractors Association when they promote their skills at their Annual General Meeting in Washington, DC with U.S. firms that come to Ontario for major infrastructure events such as the Toronto Region Board of Trade Transportation Summit or the Canadian Council of Public Private Partnerships Conference.

Alumni Enjoy Cocktails on the Consulate Rooftop



Ambassador Heyman hosted a reception for Department of State alumni in Toronto on the Consulate rooftop patio on September 10, 2016. After cocktails, the group of about 30 alumni, Public Affairs staff, the Consul General, and Ambassador proceeded to the gala premier of the Toronto International Film Festival movie “A Monster Calls” at Royal Thompson Hall, about a lonely young boy struggling with the imminent death of his mother. This was the fifth alumni event the consulate General has held this year.

Halifax

Fulbright Alumna Awarded Community Leadership Program Grant

By Johnny McPherson, Atlantic Canada State Alumni Network (ACSAN) acsan.alumni@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Marcia Ostashewski**, Fulbright Alumna, Ethnomusicologist and Canada Research Chair in Communities and Cultures at Cape Breton University (CBU). Marcia recently launched the Centre for Sound Communities at CBU, and with the support of other Fulbright alumni, applied for and received a grant from Fulbright Canada’s Community Leadership Program (CLP) for a public outreach program called “Global Musics – Local Connections.” As an ethnomusicologist, Marcia works with people to “learn how we make music and dance and how we make it meaningful in our lives.” The CLP grant will support public outreach and film festival components of the project and “foster positive intercultural interactions and creative synergies in the face of increasing global immigration...” After all, as noted Canadian author Gabrielle Roy, “Could we ever know each other in the slightest without the arts?”

Visit Marcia’s website at <http://marciaostashewski.ca/> and learn more about Global Musics – Local Connections at <http://globalmusics.ca> (Twitter @Global_Musics), and the Centre for Sound Communities at <http://soundcommunities.org> (Twitter @CBU_Sound).

The U.S. Embassy in Ottawa funds the Community Leadership Program.

Long-term and Brand New Alumni Attend July 4 Festivities in Halifax

On a beautiful summer evening in Halifax, several alumni joined U.S. Consul General Steven Giegerich in celebrating the 240th birthday of the United States. In this picture **Arylene Reycraft** (left), who just returned from an IVLP on-demand on Women in STEM, and a guest met one of our most experienced alumni in Halifax, **Johnny McPherson**.





**Congratulations to Tom Osborne, IVLP Alumnus 2000,
Speaker of the Newfoundland
and Labrador House of Assembly**

Tom Osborne, a member of the House of Assembly in Newfoundland and Labrador since 1996, was elected to the position of Speaker of the House in December 2015. Speaker Osborne had previously held the position of Deputy Speaker and several cabinet positions: Minister of Environment and Minister of Labour, Minister of Health, and Minister of Justice. He furthered his political knowledge of the United States during his 2000 IVLP on the presidential campaign.

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